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German. To this end he makes the English of the exercises (numbered line by line in J.-M., but not in M.) a model of their kind for good idiom and clearness. On comparing Joynes's examples with Meissner's we have found the former uniformly better and fuller as illustrations of German style than the latter. Exercises on pronunciation have been inserted and Meissner's method of teaching the pronunciation of foreign words has been extended and improved. It is a valuable addition to the American work to have the combined endings of pronoun and adjective given as they are on page 52, and to have such synopses as that on declension, contained on p. 46. It is often in little details like this no less than in larger matters that the Joynes-Meissner is so much in advance of the Meissner alone. The student needs just these summaries to help him fix his knowledge fast in his memory where it may take root and flourish. Opportunity for the insertion of all these new points, summaries, and discussions has been obtained by omitting the *Sprech-übungen* and *Fragen* of the original work, material for which can readily be found in any text a given class may be reading—if, indeed, it be at all desirable to waste time teaching a class by the smatter-chatter method to "speak" German or French. Prof. Joynes's principal help-books have been the grammars of Whitney, Brandt, and Tiarks, from which he has derived abundant suggestions duly acknowledged. Part I. of his Grammar contains 177 pp. and forms by itself an excellent "One Year's Course in German." Part II. contains 43 pp. on Derivation and Composition. Part III. contains a clear and full Syntax 70 pp. in length followed by a series of continuous passages for translation and the new rules for orthography. The exercises are now in German, now in English script.

To sum up: the new Grammar is in our opinion the best *college* grammar in the market. Whitney's is a fuller *university* grammar, Brandt's is more advanced and scientific, but the Joynes-Meissner fulfills more thoroughly than either the demand for a complete working practical introduction to the study of German in its contemporary forms and features. The one fault we have to find

with it is due to its original English form: the fault (in Part I: Accidence) of breaking up the verb into bits and scattering them through the noun, adjective and pronoun declensions. For ourselves, as a matter of purely personal predilection, we had rather present the auxiliary and modal verbs as a whole, later on in the book, than strew the tenses and conjugations hither and thither through its pages. The student may find difficulty in grasping the verb phenomena synthetically when he finds them thus disconnectedly presented. Apart from this objection (which many teachers may construe as a positive advantage), the 36 chapters composing the Accidence furnish in beautifully printed form a strong and firm outline of German grammar, an outline on which both authors and publishers are to be congratulated.

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SPELLING REFORM.

Spelling: A Magazine devoted to the Simplification of English Orthography. Official Organ of the Spelling Reform Association. Vol. I, Nos. 1 and 2, May and July, 1887. Boston, Library Bureau. Quarterly; \$1.00 a year.

The opening numbers of a new Quarterly are before us. Its title has the required "kind of physiognomy" that leads to a just conjecture of what is to be looked for within. Indeed the writer of the introductory paragraphs, whom, as it would seem, we are not to know as *editor*, begins with an assurance of the trustworthiness of the chosen title: "The purpose of this publication is exprest by its title. It wil treat of Spelling, and all that is practically concernd with it." The scope of the 'practical' in this connection is to be specially marked; for, the avowed basis of the doctrines to be set forth is grounded in the adjacent domain of scientific and theoretic research and discussion of alphabetic, phonetic and philological problems. "All points," we are therefore told, "in debate among: reformers wil be fairly presented, and due space wil be givn to discussions by specialists of the

minuter questions of fonetics and alfabetics." But the word 'practical,' on the other hand, is quite justly selected. This is not to be a dry-as-dust performance in which the scientific aspirant may indulge himself in the luxury of being misunderstood, nay, it is to be marked by a straightforward simplicity that alone becomes the teacher of the public at large. There is no special need of appeal to scholarship; this has for a long time been enlisted in the cause, and its future support is assured. But the people must now hear the verdict of scholars; what the adjudged merits of the case may be; and what advice to follow. This brings us to the direct touch of the mission of the new periodical, as thus expressed: "But our chief purpose will be to diffuze information; to put into uzable shape, and to circulate among the people, the facts and principls upon which English spelling rests, and upon which the demand for its reform is based. This information exists, in great bulk, in the literature of spelling reform, especially in that of the last twenty years, and is daily receiving fresh additions. Much of it has never reacht the general public; much of it has faild, thru lack of repetition, to effect its purpose. Nothing can be kept before the public without being repeated, reprinted, rearranged, and, as it wer, thrust before their eyes. To move public opinion we must say our say in plain words, and say it over and over again. This we shal try to do. We shal try to put the facts in the case in such shape and such order that in time the public wil see that a change for the better in spelling ought to be made. We shal get from the most competent hands and choose from the best sources the facts and arguments which make for reform, and hope in the course of time to help in preparing the great body of reformers, and the greater body of the public, to understand, and to judge and decide upon, the projects of reform which have been so long hovering in the air."

Nothing could be plainer than this. The Bulletins of the Spelling Reform Association are now merged in a popular periodical which, it is hoped, will be effective in establishing common sense views, and general intelligence in the matter of our spelling. There is earnestness of purpose here, that cannot be resisted.

We are all compelled to listen and to reflect on many of the considerations which are pressed upon us. The editorial writer presents himself in a state of mind so manifestly begotten of a sense of right and duty that we willingly allow him to play upon a long series of keys, for his remotest notes are in accord with his absorbing theme. It is sweet consolation to be told that "It is a mark of promise not to spel easily," but we must also be open to a reproof of our ignorance. Our instructor occupies the high ground of conviction which lifts him, in his introduction, above the reputed alternative of appearing "either with a halter about his neck, submitting himself to his reader's mercy whether he shall be hanged, or not; or else in a huffing manner *** with his halter in his hand threatening to hang his reader if he give him not his good word." We must therefore take no alarm if at times we may be almost reminded of the halter: "The (Spelling Reform) Association asks the support and coöperation of all persons who are wise enuf to see the need, and public-spirited enuf to help the purpose, of securing the simplification of English orthography. * * * and if you are not a hide-bound conservativ, opposed to all reform, or one of these who favor 'reform' but object to any change, you cannot fail to approve the aims of the Association" (p. 36). This is wholesome. Let us be thankful for it.

It were difficult briefly to indicate the many sides of interest belonging to the subject of spelling. There are questions of abstract theory of the most engaging kind, which in application to our own system constitute an instruction in the language that is inestimable. The journal under notice promises to teach us this varied subject. The principles of reforming our spelling are to be set forth. We are to expect an orderly exposition of the best thought on this subject. Theoretic discussion will, to no inconsiderable degree, be

"falling as a husk
Away from all the fruit its years have riped."

The accumulated force of the entire argument will be made to impinge upon the lever of popular conviction and belief.

We heartily wish this new enterprise such

support as may assure its permanent success. The perils of its life are thus frankly stated: "If, after a reasonable time, it is not supported, it will die; for we reserv the privilege of acknowledging, should occasion arise, the powerful logic of a big printer's bil in a litl treasury." The needed support will, however, surely follow if people will but read it and judge for themselves.

JAMES W. BRIGHT.

THE GUNNLAUGS SAGA.

Gunnlaugssaga Ormstungu. Mit einleitung und glossar herausgegeben von E. Mogk. [Altnordische texte herausgegeben von E. Mogk, I.] Halle, 1886. 8vo., pp. xx+58.

Since 1775, the date of the *editio princeps*, the Gunnlaugs Saga has appeared in no less than six different editions; it has besides this been translated into Latin, Danish, German and English. It has owed its popularity less to its historical value than to its merit as literature and its possession in a marked degree of the typical characteristics of the Saga. It is a well-rounded story of the golden age of Iceland told with the exquisite skill of the accomplished Saga teller, the simplicity of whose style has materially increased the dramatic interest of the plot and the pathos of the denouement. It is, as the editor of the present edition affirms, better fitted than almost any other Saga to serve as an introduction to the study of the ancient language and literature of the Scandinavian North.

The purpose of the present edition is wholly to serve as such an introduction; it is in no sense critical. Variants are given neither in the prose nor the strophes. The whole critical apparatus consists in the arrangement of the strophes in prose order and their explanation; a glossary; and lists of persons and of places. The text is preceded by a short introduction, and a chronology after Vigfusson.

The Gunnlaugs Saga is preserved in two membranes, a shorter: Cod. A.M. 557, in Copenhagen (*AM*); and a longer: Cod. Holm. 18, in Stockholm (*H*). With the exception of the first, every edition has been based upon

H. Dr. Mogk, however, after a more careful examination, decides in favor of *AM* as containing an earlier text, and accordingly uses it as the foundation of his edition. Neither of these MSS. appears to contain the original text of the Saga. Both have interpolations that do not properly belong in the story. Parts have sometimes been omitted from *AM* that are given in *H*, but *H* has unmistakably more added passages, as well as others in which the text is changed from its original form. Interpolations common to both MSS. are printed in the present edition in brackets; where the more extended version of *H* is considered the more original it is enclosed in parentheses. The conclusion, from the latter part of chapter 11. to the end of the Saga, which *AM* has lost, is supplied from *H*.

In orthography the edition follows neither *AM* nor *H*. The origin of the Saga is, with probable correctness, placed in the second half of the 13th century; the editor has therefore normalized the orthography of the prose text to accord with the MSS. of this period. The adopted orthography is with a few exceptions that given in Noreen's grammar. In closer correspondence, as he claims, with the MSS. of the latter part of the 13th century, Dr. Mogk has, however, throughout written *p*, medial as well as initial. For the same reason he writes *z*, instead of *s*, in the genitive after final *t* or *d*, as well as after *ll* and *nn*. Further, he declines the pronoun: *ngkkorr—ngkkor—ngkkot*, basing himself on the usage of the *Annales regii*, which MS., he asserts, without exception writes *u* in the declensional endings and yet in this word retains the *o*. He would, accordingly, take it back to an older *nakkvarr* in which *va* > *o*, as in *kvam* > *kom*, after umlaut of *a*. The orthography of the strophes, which are naturally older than the prose, is normalized in accordance with the oldest MSS. Of the strophes attributed to Gunnlaug v. 18, which also occurs in the Kormaks Saga, is manifestly not his. The case is not so clear v. 20, which may have been preserved in spite of the editor's dictum, as Gunnlaug, according to the text, after he was taken to Lifangr "lay three nights" before he died. Strophes 21 and 22 are plainly late additions.

In his chronology the editor has with good